



PSC NEWS

Missouri Public Service Commission

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CASE TO REVIEW RELAY MISSOURI SURCHARGE

JEFFERSON CITY--The Missouri Public Service Commission has opened a case to review the current surcharge that appears on the monthly telephone bills of Missourians to fund a statewide dual-party telephone relay service for the deaf, hard-of-hearing and speech disabled (Relay Missouri).

Relay Missouri provides telephone accessibility to people who are deaf, hard-of-hearing or speech disabled. Specially trained communication assistants translate calls so that deaf, hard-of-hearing and speech disabled individuals can communicate with any other party.

The Missouri General Assembly established Relay Missouri in 1990. Under state law, the Commission is required to review the surcharge at least every two years, but not more than on an annual basis. The review is to ascertain that necessary funds are available for the provision of the program.

Relay Missouri is funded through a monthly, per line surcharge. The current surcharge of 10 cents was established in 2003.

According to information filed by the PSC Staff, the Relay Missouri fund is projected to be depleted by April 2006 if the surcharge remains at 10 cents. Staff has recommended the surcharge be increased to 15 cents in order to adequately fund the program for next year.

Applications to intervene and formally participate in this case must be filed on or before **April 12, 2005**, with the Secretary of the Missouri Public Service Commission, P.O. Box 360, Jefferson City, Missouri 65102. Copies of the application should be sent to: Office of the Public Counsel, P.O. Box 2230, Jefferson City, Missouri 65102. The Office of the Public Counsel is a separate state agency which represents the general public in cases before the Commission. Individual customers wishing to comment may contact either the Office of the Public Counsel (P.O. Box 2230, Jefferson City, Missouri 65102, telephone 573-751-4857) or the Public Service Commission Staff (P.O. Box 360, Jefferson City, Missouri 65102, telephone 1-800-392-4211).